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ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY IN EUROPE.

Paris, May 19th, 1846.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—In Paris, during the last winter, I have found, as every medical man must find, numerous objects of deep interest; but my attention has been chiefly fixed upon subjects connected with orthopedy. Through the kindness of Messrs. Guerin, Bouvier and others, I have had many opportunities of observation in this most interesting branch of science. I have found in Guerin's wards, at the Hôpital des Enfants Malades, and at his weekly consultations, many cases of great interest. In addition to this, he has, at his own house, weekly meetings of medical gentlemen, for conversation on whatever matters of importance may have presented themselves during the week. Among the orthopedic cases at the Hospital, there were three or four in the various stages of treatment for congenital dislocation or luxation of the hip. To these I paid much attention, and watched their progress with care. Guerin's treatment and theory, in these cases, consists—Firstly, in continued extension of the limb. This is accomplished by means of a weight and pulley. There is a long, leather splint, well cushioned, applied to the leg, embracing it from the knee to the ankle. In this two rings are inserted—one for a cord which runs through a pulley at the foot of the couch, and to which is attached the weight. This is strictly and simply the course "préparatoire." By this means, in the course of a longer or shorter period, according to the nature of the case, the head of the femur gradually descends to a level with that of the sound limb. This all-important object being accomplished, the second stage of the treatment, or the process of "creusant," is commenced. A simple yet ingenious contrivance is used for this purpose; and the head of the femur in its new position is kept in almost constant action upon the acetabulum, thus excavating for itself a new socket, or rather, I should say, deepening that which we may suppose to have previously existed.

Guerin's theory in this respect is, that in no case is the cotyloid cavity entirely wanting. This he affirms as the result of his own observations on the numerous cases of congenital luxation which he has treated, but more particularly have the various *post-mortem* examinations, made either by himself or by his assistant M. Kuhn (to whom, *post-mortem* examinations of deformity is a subject of deep interest, and one to which he has

devoted much time and attention), confirmed him in his opinion. In every case a cavity has been found. In many cases, no doubt, it is extremely shallow, and in adults nearly obliterated, but never entirely. The patient who has been subjected to the mode of treatment of which I have been speaking, is often, after a certain length of time, permitted gradually to make use of more active exercise, and he proceeds from simply swinging the limb, to the walking stool, in which the chief part of the weight is taken from the still feeble member, and there, as the process of cure continues, he is enabled to make a free use of his own feet.

It may be, however, that before the first part of the process can be accomplished, namely, the descent of the head of the bone, the aid of tenotomy will be required. This may be termed the second class. In this case it may become necessary to divide the various muscles which by their contraction offer an opposition to our efforts. As, for example, I can recall a case in which the tendon of the two adductors, the gluteus medius and minimus, the psoas, the rectus femoris, as also (the case being complicated) the biceps, the external lateral ligament and the tendo-Achilles, were each in their turn divided. But in that class of cases, in which the depression is so extremely shallow as to render vain the attempt to secure the head of the bone in its normal position by this course of treatment, a mode more bold and active must be adopted. In these cases Guerin performs an operation, which first suggested itself to him, as the result of those more general applications of the fundamental principle upon which the operation by the subcutaneous method has taken its stand, and the more extended application of which he is the acknowledged originator. This operation resembles that which he performs for the radical cure of hernia. The head of the femur rests in all these cases on the dorsum of the ilium; the capsular ligament is of necessity much elongated, being stretched, according to the extent of the deformity, either one inch and a half, or two, or sometimes even three inches. The luxation having been reduced either by the simple means, or by division of the muscles, and the process of passive exercise, &c., having been tried without success, there being still, after a proper length of time has elapsed, a constant disposition of the bone to return to its abnormal position, slipping from its place when the slightest weight is applied to it, the operation then becomes necessary. Guerin introduces his instrument from without inward, and carries it down to the capsular ligament, which he cuts across upon a level with the upper lip of the socket. By this means effusion of coagulable lymph is produced. There is adhesion and cicatrization, with its necessary result, contraction. In fifteen days gentle passive motion is made use of, and in time a firm ligament is formed, by which the head of the bone is held securely in its new position. Immediately after the operation a band is placed firmly round the pelvis, with a compress upon the joint. Several other cases were described to me, besides those I have seen at the Hospital, some of double, some of single congenital luxation, in which the operation has been attended with the most favorable results.

4th. There is yet another class of cases. In certain children the re-

sistance to the means employed for producing a descent of the head of the femur, is so great as to render these efforts wholly ineffectual. What is very curious in these cases is, that in lieu of this, there is an elongation of the bone itself, by which ample compensation is made. Thus we have still the signs of dislocation on examining the hip-joint, but on comparing the two limbs we find them of the same length. There was one very fine example of this in the Hospital, affording, by accurate measurement, positive proof of the occurrence of this elongation. The patient, in this case, will have, of course, a slight awkwardness in his gait, but without the usual limp. I will not leave this subject without briefly remarking that in this, as, in truth, is the case in Paris, upon almost every subject connected with medicine, there has been much controversy, and that M. Guerin and Bouvier have arrayed themselves upon opposite sides. Of course, I shall not attempt to form a decided opinion until I have had a still greater number of cases presented to my view, and have had that opportunity for careful and accurate observation which private practice can alone afford.

As a curious example of the truth of the above remark, and of the thorough investigation which all things here undergo, having any connection with the science of medicine, may be cited the controversy which has been going on the past winter between MM. Velpeau and Blandiet on the treatment of hydrocele, with the particulars of which you are no doubt well acquainted.

The course of treatment pursued by Messieurs Guerin and Bouvier, and by Dr. Little, of London, for the various phases of spinal disease, is the same as that employed at the Boston Orthopedic Institution, with the exception that the above-named gentlemen adopt the prone position in a somewhat greater number of cases than has been the practice in Boston. The only reason why this should not be more generally made use of in certain cases, is the wearisomeness of the position almost entirely debarring the patient from the amusements of which the other positions admit.

In some cases no doubt this mode of treatment is very important, as in scrofulous disease with excurvation, where the anterior portion of the bodies of some of the vertebræ are in a state of caries. Here the prone position is undoubtedly the one which affords the greatest promise of success, and should in all cases be employed where the patient can be prevailed upon to submit to it. To be used with the expectation of a favorable result, there is much minutiae to be attended to in regard to the formation of the couch, adjustment of the cushions, together with the appropriate body apparatus so arranged that while the patient is recumbent there shall be a gentle elastic pressure constantly exerted upon the protuberant part. Guerin remarks that the course pursued should be the same as that for the fracture of a limb, and that, as far as this part of the treatment is concerned, this disease should be viewed in the same light.

It is greatly to be regretted that in Paris the provision for that large class of sufferers who are afflicted with some of the various deformities

which recent advances in science have so well prepared the surgeon to relieve, but who have the additional misfortune of poverty, should be so inferior and so unworthy the results which might be effected under other circumstances, and which have been brought about in private practice. From the great error which was committed in the first instance of placing the patients of this class in one of their large public hospitals, merely allotting two or three of the smaller wards to their reception, it has seemed to me impossible that in certain cases the surgeon should be able to do either himself or his patients justice. This is more especially the case in lateral curvature, and general feebleness of the muscular and nervous systems, where the all-important auxiliaries of gymnastic exercises, suited to attain the peculiar object in view, be it the development of a particular set of muscles, or the general strengthening of all the muscles, or quickening the dormant circulation and giving vigor to the debilitated nerves, must be for the most part abandoned for the want of necessary accommodations to permit that variety of exercises being made use of, which are requisite to insure complete success. How inferior must such a charity necessarily be, connected with a hospital devoted to other purposes, to one especially set apart for the purpose, be it public or private. Of those of the latter class which I have seen in Europe, that of M. Bouvier has given me the most pleasure. Of the variety and appropriateness of the arrangement to be found at this institution, I shall speak more in detail hereafter.

The couches of extension and sigmoid flexion combined with suitable exercises, are the means considered the most effectual, and upon which chief reliance is to be placed, in cases of lateral curvature. As an adjunct to this, and to be used while the patient is walking, &c., these gentlemen make use of some form of spinal support for body apparatus. This consists for the most part of a modification of Tavernier's Lever Belt, which in a number of cases is without doubt an instrument of great value.

All orthopedic surgeons agree in the necessity of spinal supports being used in some form for spinal curvatures, and for a perfect instrument of this kind, which shall unite the advantages of those we have, without their defects, is what I have sought for diligently. The best which I have seen, where the object has been to go farther than merely to afford support to the spine or staying it in the new position to which other remedies have brought it, until the feeble muscles shall have acquired power to perform their office without this aid, are those employed by Dr. Little, which are still a modification of Tavernier's, but more powerful and better adapted to a great number of cases.

In the treatment of lateral curvature there are of course many other things to be taken into consideration, particularly where there is a scrofulous diathesis, or where the general health is enfeebled. In all cases the attention of the surgeon is to be directed with much care to the less prominent symptoms. Dr. Zinck, of the Orthopedic Institution, Vienna, lays much stress on false positions during sleep, as a cause of this complaint; as, for example, lying with the head inclined toward the left side, thus checking inspiration on that side. He says that on this account the

process of cure is rendered much more tedious, and he considers that patients should be watched much during their sleep, that the injury arising from these false positions may be obviated. He has found the muscles of inspiration on the left side in such cases much atrophied.

In the Royal Orthopedic Hospital, London, much reliance is placed upon the instrument to which I have referred above. This was the first orthopedic institution I visited in Europe. It is solely a charitable institution, and owes its origin to the disinterested efforts of Dr. Little, by whom it was carried to a great degree of perfection and usefulness. Mr. Tamplis is now the senior, and Mr. Lonsdale the junior surgeon. The latter gentleman has already made his appearance before the English surgical community, as the inventor of two or three surgical instruments and apparatus. One, in particular, for the fracture of the lower jaw, bids fair to be an instrument of great value.

This Institution or Hospital has accommodations for about forty patients. During the last year seventy-five patients have been admitted, of whom forty-eight have been discharged cured, and eighteen relieved. The number of out-patients is, however, very large. There are two days in the week appointed for their reception, and on these occasions from sixty to eighty patients constantly present themselves. These are for the most part different on different days, and the whole number dependent upon the institution for advice is nine hundred and sixty-nine. The whole number which have been treated at this institution since its formation, is four thousand. It is supported entirely by subscriptions, which now amount to £1917. The list is headed by Prince Albert, followed by a number of the nobility.

The treatment of club feet is a subject which is now so thoroughly understood on both sides of the water, that I need scarcely refer to it here. The chief difference consists in the form of apparatus employed. That of the model which I brought with me from Boston, is considered by Little, Guerin and others, as one of the most perfect they have seen; and, as Dr. L. observed when speaking of the various apparatus in use, the great expense of this kind of *especial* work in London, is the only reason why this more perfect form cannot be universally adopted.

In some future communication, I shall take occasion to refer to a novel and effectual method now pursued for straightening the bent limbs of rickety children, for the diagnosis and cure of stammering in those cases which admit of a cure, and also for the treatment of some of the varieties of scrofulous diseases and of nervous debility. Until which time, I remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

BUCKMINSTER BROWN.

MALIGNANT DISEASES OF THE STOMACH.

Cases treated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Reported by B. L. Ormerod, M.D.

Encephaloid Disease of the Stomach.—John B——, aged 64; March, 1846; Luke back-ward; under Dr. Roupell. A large, very fat man,

formerly weighing seventeen stone, but now somewhat less; a looking-glass silverer; habitually intemperate; was admitted for weakness and tremors, affecting chiefly the upper extremities, so that he could not feed himself. This was his sole complaint, and thus he continued till within four days of his death, when he was suddenly taken with pain in the head, vomiting, thirst, and complete loss of appetite. He died, after a long painful agony of a day's duration, it is considered of fever, which he had taken in the ward. To the last he was free from pain in the stomach.

Body examined twenty-six hours after death.—Warm dry weather. No marks of decomposition externally; no particularly marked sugillations, and no smell of putrefaction. Limbs relaxing from their rigidity. Arachnoid white and opaque, with little white dots in the meshes of the pia mater. Substance of the brain soft, with numerous bloody points, and little vessels full of coagulated blood, drawing out like hairs on suction. The arteries about the base were thickened, and yellow in patches. The pleuræ were extensively adherent; the lungs generally emphysematous, oedematous and posteriorly rotten, readily tearing down under the fingers. Beyond the enormous deposit of fat about the heart, and the deep staining of the lining membrane on the right side, there was little to notice in this organ. The peritoneal surface of the stomach was dusky, and injected near the pylorus; the mucous surface was red and rough, especially towards the pyloric end of the organ. The mucous membrane here, as in the upper part of the duodenum, was emphysematous; the sub-mucous cellular tissue of the stomach infiltrated with a creamy fluid, by which it was widely separated from the muscular coat, the whole of the coats together forming a thick membrane, traversed by fine striæ parallel to each other, at right angles to the axis of the stomach. The emphysematous condition of the mucous membrane tended much to obscure the particular local changes that it had undergone; but a small, white, fungous growth was attached near the pyloric end of the lesser curvature of the stomach, while a ring of the same substance, presenting an appearance very like that of psoriasis, lay near the same place. There was nothing to notice in the small intestines or mesenteric glands. The liver was large, indented by the pressure of surrounding parts, and, as viewed by the microscope, in a state of commencing fatty degeneration. A few cartilage-like bodies, small, with opaque spots and striæ, without any enveloping membrane, were scattered beneath the capsule and throughout the substance of the organ. A lobular mass of fat, partly crossed by fibres of the cremaster muscle, lay attached to the spermatic cord on each side, chiefly external to the inguinal ring.

This case is interesting, as presenting a rather unusual form of malignant disease of the stomach. Rokitsky speaks of encephaloid disease of this part as generally occurring in connection with a high degree of vascular action in parts already suffering under the fibrous form of disease, the areolar being an intermediate stage in the development of the encephaloid from the fibrous. But the encephaloid being more common than the areolar, although a stage beyond it in this process, the difference

is accounted for in the more frequent occurrence of encephaloid cancer as an original lesion, of which the above is an instance. The point, however, to be chiefly illustrated by the annexed cases, turns on the pathology rather than on any exact anatomical distinction of the lesions.

It is remarkable how a man could have gone on, not merely living without any symptoms of so formidable a disease in a part of so great importance and such lively sympathies as the stomach, but actually taxing this organ to its utmost; for his appetite was most voracious, and emaciation had very little reduced the truly enormous deposit of fat with which every part of his body was loaded. The explanation probably lies in the fact, that the diseased part offered no mechanical obstruction to the functions of the stomach being properly performed—that he had so much less surface of stomach wherewith to digest his food—but that the part of his stomach which did execute its functions could do so unhindered by the disease of the pyloric part. The most striking illustration of this principle that we can recall, is mentioned by Pemberton, where a cancerous ulcer had advanced very much further than the disease mentioned above, even to erosion of the walls of the abdomen, “without any one symptom by which such a disease of the stomach could possibly have been suspected,” because “the mischief was so situated as not to interrupt the passage of the food.” The following case supplies an apt illustration, the converse of the above:—

Scirrhus of the Pylorus.—William D—, aged 45; March, 1845; Luke back-ward; under Dr. Roupell. A man, with no appearance of malignant disease, extremely emaciated. He had been suffering for nine months from vomiting, about three hours after every meal, this sometimes, though rarely, intermitting for three or four days—from constipation and extreme progressive emaciation. The matters vomited were never mixed with blood, but generally dark brown and pultaceous. He died after about six weeks' stay in the hospital, the only point of interest in his case, beyond the severe vomiting, over which medicine did not appear to exert any control, being the presence of a large quantity of urea in his urine.

Body examined thirteen hours after death.—Lungs generally emphysematous; the black pulmonary matter on the surface contrasting strongly with the pale-white color of the rest of the organ. Within, they were cedematous, breaking down readily under the finger, but resisting traction well. A small pulmonary abscess existed near the apex of the left lung, close beneath the pleuræ. Stomach more than four times the ordinary size; externally healthy; within, stained of a dirty purple, and coated with thick mucus, beneath which, the mucous membrane appeared entire but *mamelonnée* in an extreme degree—this towards the pylorus; at the cardiac end the coats were partially digested. The stomach contained a large quantity of the same kind of fluid as he had vomited during life. The pylorus was contracted—so as hardly to allow the passage of a common pencil—by means of a hard ring projecting all round, single on the side that lay uppermost, but on the side nearest to the pancreas double, the two ridges leaving between them a cavity big enough to contain a hazel-

nut. Perhaps the whole morbid growth was not more than an inch and a half in diameter, the pyloric orifice of the stomach lying in the middle of the thick ring. Some small, white, hard bodies were found in the gastro-splenic omentum; none elsewhere. The mesenteric glands were rather large, but grey, and of natural consistency. Except a little black dotting of the follicles of the colon, the intestines were generally healthy.

There can be little doubt that any other mechanical obstacle, acting to the same extent, would have produced analogous results by vomiting and progressive emaciation; for the scirrhous substance in the present instance had not undergone any change by ulceration on the surface; it was merely a hard annular mass, which, but for the little bodies in the gastro-splenic omentum, could hardly have been ascertained to be of a scirrhous nature, the existence of these little bodies being the only evidence that the pyloric disease was not purely local; yet this small mass of fibrous cancer had produced the severest symptoms, while in the former case a far greater extent of encephaloid cancer had existed, not only without a single symptom referable to the stomach, but with proof of an unusual degree of activity of the functions of that organ.

The form of the diseased parts is worth a little attention, for it would appear not to have been merely an accident that the scirrhous growth took the form of a double ring. In the notes respecting a patient in the same ward a few weeks previously, whose symptoms corresponded very closely with those of the last-described case, the changes of the stomach are described as consisting of general thickening about the pyloric orifice, the aperture being reduced to about the ordinary diameter of a drawing pencil in one point. The thickened walls becoming gradually thinner from this point towards the cardiac end, were covered with a smooth mucous membrane, which continued for about an inch; and then, after crossing a somewhat raised edge, the mucous membrane regained its normal surface, and the walls of the stomach their usual thickness. Towards the duodenum, the stricture terminated quite suddenly, but about a quarter of an inch further on, another elevation of the same kind, but of a rather smaller size, was to be observed. On section, the parallel striæ at right angles to the axis of the stomach were very distinct; but in the absence of any other proof of the cancerous nature of the pyloric disease, we have not communicated any further details of the case, which, indeed, only presented the same amount of symptoms, with more local changes, than existed in the one which has just before been related.

These must be considered as cases cut off accidentally, as it were, before the full development of the cancerous mass. It will be interesting to compare them with a case in which the disease run its way to destroy life by the actual amount of organic lesion, without reference to any particular seat of such lesion.

Such a case is the following, which, for actual extent of lesion, exceeds any other that my note-book contains, and having been already referred to, may be conveniently here reproduced in an abridged form.

Cancer of the Stomach and Peritoneum.—John B——, aged 56, April, 21, 1842; had suffered more or less pain and uneasiness in the

right hypochondrium for six months ; for the last three months has had vomiting after taking food, and for the last few weeks has been obliged to desist from his trade of shoe-making.

Till July 10th, when he died, he presented little to notice from day to day. The general conclusions may be summed up in a few words ; that he had progressive emaciation, constant vomiting of almost all that he swallowed, food or medicine, but never of any blood. His appetite was most voracious ; his bowels were obstinately constive. The treatment was solely directed to support his system.

The body, on examination, presented an appearance of the most extreme emaciation. The heart was of not more than one third the usual size, and quite without fat. The black pulmonary matter beneath the pleura contrasted very strongly with numerous small white patches on the surface, and entering a little way into the substance of the lungs, which, with the exception of a few earthy concretions, were otherwise healthy. The stomach was reduced to a thickened mass, about the ordinary size of the colon. Internally, it had the appearance of a new ulcerated surface ; the scirrhus degeneration implicating the whole circumference of the organ from the pylorus nearly to the cardiac extremity. Its walls were, on an average, half an inch thick throughout ; in some points full three quarters of an inch in thickness. There was an extensive deposit of scirrhus tubercles in the omentum, and a few, as noticed on a previous occasion, were scattered about an old hernial sac.

Cases presenting more extensive lesions than the above might easily be found ; but they would not all supply the illustration which is here required of the progress of cancer of the stomach, of which neither any particular local obstruction, nor any drain on the powers of the system by hæmorrhage, has hastened the fatal termination. We forbear to dwell on any other single morbid appearances which would require the narration of more cases to show that they were anything but accidental in the particular instance, but we confine our attention here to the illustration of the influence which the situation of the disease has on the production of the symptoms of cancer of the stomach. On this, as on all other questions relating to the subject, it is almost needless to refer the reader to the most elaborate systematic treatises of Dr. Walshe for all that is known of cancer.—*London Lancet.*

FOREIGN BODIES IN THE ORGANS AND TISSUES OF THE BODY.

* By W. B. Herrick, M.D., Professor of Anatomy in the Rush Medical College.

EVERY experienced practitioner has, doubtless, met with cases, with symptoms which, for the want of a correct history, or from inattention to minute circumstances connected with their origin and progress, have appeared inexplicable and perplexing.

Symptoms thus presenting themselves, without any assignable cause, are often produced by the presence of foreign substances imbedded in some important organ or tissue of the body, introduced by accident or

otherwise, without the patient's knowledge; its presence not being suspected by himself or his medical attendant.

For the purpose of directing attention to this fact, and to show the importance of inquiring more minutely into the origin and primary cause of such symptoms, we give below the history of a few cases of the kind:

CASE I.—In the fall of 1843, I was called to see Mr. H., an industrious, middle-aged farmer, with a good constitution, who had been suffering, during the 24 hours previous to my arrival, with the most excruciating pain in and around the knee-joint, extending upwards to the hip, and downwards to the foot. Limb high-colored, swollen, and very tender, pulse 100 and full.

It appeared from the history of the case, that while laboring in the field about two months previous to this time, my patient had felt a slight pricking sensation in the integuments covering the joint. Upon examination, a slightly reddened point was discovered, but there being no other evidence of injury, and as exercise caused no inconvenience, he continued his labors up to the time of the inflammatory attack.

Under the influence of antiphlogistic treatment, both general and local, the inflammatory action gradually subsided, and in about ten days all signs of disease had disappeared from the affected part.

About six months subsequent to this attack, being called again, I found Mr. H. suffering as before, with symptoms similar in every respect to those above mentioned. The treatment, this time, though actively antiphlogistic, did not prevent the formation of an abscess in the cellular substance around the joint, which continued to discharge for two weeks, when it healed, leaving no bad effects, apparently, excepting a slightly contracted condition of the muscles of the limb.

In about a year after this second attack, this unfortunate patient was brought upon his bed for the third time, with symptoms identical with the former. An abscess formed as before, which continued to discharge for two or three months, at the end of which time (during my absence) his medical attendant, while passing a probe into the abscess, discovered a foreign substance imbedded in its walls, which, being withdrawn, proved to be the sharp point of a thorn, a half inch or more in length. After its removal, as may be supposed, the abscess healed kindly, and all traces of disease of the leg and knee rapidly disappeared.

II.—A. H., a carpenter, about 25 years of age, of good constitution, and in robust health at the time, was suddenly attacked with cough, profuse expectoration, and difficult respiration, with slight febrile excitement. In the hands of numerous physicians of good reputation, and under the care of as many quacks, for two years after this attack, a part of which time was spent in a hospital at New Orleans, these symptoms became more and more alarming, his sufferings almost insupportable; till, at the end of that time, these apparently characteristic symptoms, his emaciated condition and depressed physical powers, impressed the conviction upon himself and medical advisers, that he was about to fall a victim to consumption.

Thus deprived of hope, and desirous of seeing his friends once more,

Mr. H., by dint of great exertion and bodily suffering, arrived at length at the home of his brother in the interior of Illinois, there, as he supposed, shortly to end his days.

Soon after his arrival, and during one of the violent fits of coughing, to which he was subject, a foreign substance, which proved to be a fish bone, cuboidal in shape, and a half inch or more in diameter, was suddenly and forcibly ejected from the laryngeal opening upon the floor.

From this time forward, all the alarming symptoms began rapidly to abate, and at this time, two years since, the individual above named is in perfect health.

After the above fortunate termination of his disease, Mr. H. recollected that a month or two previous to the appearance of the above-named symptoms, while dining upon fish, he inhaled, as he supposed, a small portion into the air-passages, but, as it gave him but little trouble at the time, he thought no more of it, and did not, during his illness, suspect, even, the true cause of his sufferings.

III.—A friend of mine, a physician, has given me the history of the case of an individual who fell, accidentally, upon the extremity of a blunt stick; which, piercing the clothing and integuments, passed into the cellular substance surrounding the lower part of the rectum. The opening thus produced assumed the character of a fistula, and remained open for a long time after the accident. The operation of laying open this cavity, was at length performed, which resulted in the discovery of a piece of cloth imbedded in the tissue at the bottom of the ulcerating canal.—*Illinois and Indiana Medical and Surgical Journal.*

CASE OF STRANGULATED INGUINAL HERNIA.

By Paul F. Eve, M.D., Professor of Surgery in the Medical College of Georgia.

On the 17th of last August, I was requested by Drs. Hanson and Jones, of an adjoining county, to see, with them, a patient laboring under strangulated hernia. Mr. G. S.— is about 44 years, weighs 185 pounds, and is only five feet six inches high; his habits are very good. In 1841, four years ago, while lifting a cotton bale, "he felt something give way in the region of the right groin." On Thursday, the 14th of August, when sowing turnips, he suddenly experienced pain low down in the right side of his abdomen. He took, soon after this, a dose of salts, which acted freely upon his bowels; but as no relief was thus obtained, Dr. Hanson was sent for, and reached him early on Saturday morning the 16th. Mr. S. was now freely bled, and means employed to reduce a hernia found existing in the right inguinal region. Reduction not being effected, Dr. Jones was sent for, and arrived the evening of the same day. All ordinary means failing to restore the protruding viscus, including tobacco injection which evacuated the bowels freely, I was sent for at 2, A. M., of the 17th, and saw the patient a few hours afterwards. At half past 8

o'clock, having exhausted taxis, &c., as my two professional friends had already done, the operation was decided upon.

The tumor extended from the external abdominal ring to the bottom of the scrotum on the right side. It was much distended, and the patient complained of great pain at this region. In making the incisions, the *arteria ad cutem abdominis* was found to require the ligature, and when the sac was opened, a saucer was employed to catch the bloody serum which flowed out. Of this there was more than a half pint, which, together with a portion of the omentum, about the size of a man's fist, formed the hernial tumor. There were no adhesions to the sac. The internal abdominal ring was now divided by carrying the edge of Sir Astley Cooper's knife directly upwards, and efforts made to return the protruding portion of omentum. From the induration of the part presented at the internal ring, success did not attend this attempt at reduction. The knife had again to be resorted to, and the ring greatly enlarged by free incisions, and then the omentum only returned by prolonged and forcible manipulations.

After the operation, we concurred in the opinion that our patient, in all probability, would not long survive it. Forty drops of laudanum were prescribed, also absolute diet and quietude. Upon opiates, however, was placed the greatest reliance; and Dr. H., the family physician, kindly consented to remain twenty-four hours with Mr. S.

On the 19th, two days after the operation, I was much gratified to receive a very favorable report from our patient. His sufferings had gradually diminished, his pulse was at 88, and his wound, which was now dressed, found to be doing well. We even placed him on another mattress, while his bed was made up, and his linen changed. He had yet had no evacuation from the bowels, but had passed some flatus. An emollient enema was prescribed, should he be troubled in the bowels during the day, which if not moved on the morrow, were then to be stimulated to action by an injection.

The 1st September I heard Mr. S. was improving, and on the 6th of October, he went eleven miles to vote at our State election. The ligature to the small artery was not removed until the 16th of this month, and during November last I met him in our streets attending to his business.

The soft pad of a truss, with rather a weak spring, was recommended to be worn, in this case, for a few months.—*Southern Med. Journal.*

NEW METHOD OF PRESERVING ORGANIC MATTERS.

At a late soirée, held by the Marquis of Northampton, Dr. Sylvestri, Physician to the Royal Hospital at Naples, and chief Physician of his Majesty's guard of honor, exhibited several preparations made according to a method discovered by him. By this process, organic matters are perfectly preserved, being converted into a substance possessing the hardness of stone, and admitting of being polished. Among the preparations shown, were a portion of human liver, a section of a kidney, a section

of a testis, and some hands and heads. In these specimens the texture was perfectly apparent when examined with a magnifying glass, but the substances themselves had acquired the hardness and resonance of stone. The head of a ram possessed the stony hardness peculiar to these preparations, while the ears and hairs retained their natural softness and pliability. Birds submitted to this process, retain their feathers uninjured either in color or pliancy; fishes are coated by a kind of transparent varnish; and the cornea retains the transparency of life. Dr. Sylvestri has also succeeded in preserving flowers in the same manner, the petals retaining their natural hues, and the stem and leaves their pliancy and verdure. He gives the following statement of the applications of his discovery:—

“An entire corpse, without being injured in the slightest degree, can be brought to a consistency approaching to petrification, and preserved for an indefinite period in full perfection of form, with the hair, nails, &c. Like a statue it can also be placed in any given position, as illustrative of individual character or station.

“Animals of every species, from the elephant to the insect, are susceptible of being reduced to the same state of consistency and preservation. The plumage, fur, wool and all other adjuncts of nature, remain entire, retaining the same color, firmness and flexibility that they had at the moment of death.

“The same result can be produced in the single parts, organs, &c., of any organic animal body, without undergoing any alteration whatever, even though injected previously to the operation.

“All the objects in question may be petrified in such various degrees of intensity as may be judged necessary for the purposes of dissection, observation, examination, &c., with perfect freedom from stench, and all else of an objectionable nature, either when handled, or preserved as objects of curiosity.

“Flowers and plants can be preserved unchangeable, with their colors, form, leaves and stems, as if just gathered.

“The advantages of the new discovery are, That the processes hitherto practised for the embalming and temporary preservation of human bodies become needless, as under the circumstances every one would have recourse to the discovery in question, which would also foster the natural desire to rescue from corruption the remains of illustrious men, and of individuals dear to their respective families.

“That zoological societies may provide specimens of animals preserved in full integrity by the new process, which also renders further trouble unnecessary, as they emit neither bad odor nor injurious exhalations, too often the case in the common method.

“That such persons as have enjoyed the companionship of domestic animals, or have received services from them, will be able to preserve and display them after death, as monuments of their sensibility and gratitude.

“That, for the convenience of students in natural history, glass cases with double fronts, may be formed, to facilitate the exhibition and knowledge of the various classes and species of animals, for the furtherance of the verification of facts.

"That schools, theatres, and cabinets of anatomy, will be able to secure in abundance, objects prepared by the above method, for the observation of nature itself in the various branches of descriptive, comparative, and pathological anatomy—studies prosecuted hitherto with the aid of decaying corpes, inappropriate or imperfect specimens modelled in wax or pasteboard, or preserved in spirits of wine, which invariably operates injuriously on such objects as are placed in it.

"Instructors and scientific men will not fail to provide themselves with specimens of the operation of this new discovery, which will enable them to study, for the first time, the internal construction and tissue complete and unchanged. A more interesting contemplation can scarcely be conceived.

"In the preservation of flowers and plants, botanical societies and collectors will profit by the new discovery."

Dr. Sylvestri has also discovered a fluid for preserving animal matters, and which he considers will be found a complete substitute for alcohol.—*London Lancet.*

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JULY 1, 1846.

The Hot Springs of Virginia.—A pamphlet of ninety-five pages—called the Invalid's Guide to these celebrated fountains of health—brings to recollection some pleasant excursions over the Alleghany Mountains, in by-gone times. Besides being a directory, this compact pocket assistant contains an account of the medicinal properties of the Hot Spring waters, with cases illustrative of their effects, together with an account of the medical application and effects of the waters of Weisbaden, Wilbad and Carlsbad—three of the most celebrated hot springs of Germany, &c. This little manual is by Thomas Goode, M.D., the proprietor of the establishment. On looking over the pages, we regret to find that Dr. Goode has suffered from the misstatements of his enemies, who fain would have the public believe that he is an extortioner in regard both to professional fees and hotel charges. It was not necessary for Dr. Goode to meet such injurious representations, as no one, it is believed, whose opinion or influence is worth having, would be influenced by the stories of persons who fatten on evil reports. From personal observation at the springs, from intercourse with invalids who have been under Dr. Goode's care, and, lastly, from an agreeable interview with him ourselves, we voluntarily offer our own rebutting testimony, and gladly improve this occasion for saying that the Hot Springs are powerful remedial agents, and the proprietor a judicious medical adviser. Sick or well, when from home, we never expect to be in more delightful quarters, nor under the guidance of a kinder, more sensible or upright landlord, than we found at the Hot Springs of Virginia.

Manufacture of Artificial Teeth.—M. P. Hanson, M.D., Tremont Temple, is becoming known for his singular success in copying nature even in her best efforts. His artificial teeth, gums, &c., are very perfect specimens of artistical success in practical dentistry. His gold work, too, is wonderfully fitted to all the depressions, elevations and irregularities of the jaws, and almost induces one to prefer the work of modern human genius, to dame Nature's patterns.

Dentists—those of science and skill too—are continually on the increase; but instead of deploring the fact as an evil, we are delighted with it, since it is certain that competition is a sure guarantee of a further advancement in mechanical skill. Distinct articulation, mastication, and the preservation of the original appearance of the face, are objects of such vast importance to individuals, that the more encouragement the public give to those properly educated for the business, the greater will be the perfection to which they will carry the dental art.

Journal of Dental Science.—No. IV. of the 6th Volume of the American Journal and Library of Dental Science, was distributed early in June, with a promptitude that is always commendable in a publisher.

We turn from page to page, in this periodical, with increasing gratification. There is evidence of industry and tact, and further, a spirited determination to collect and distribute such information as must be useful in the every day practice of the dentist. The Journal is an honor to this country, and in Europe appears to be sought with more avidity than any similar one of their own.

There are some belonging to the dental ranks who withhold their influence as well as their subscriptions from this admirably conducted periodical. If they covet distinction in the literature of that profession, the Baltimore Journal is the legitimate place for exhibiting their attainments; and such improvements or discoveries as are calculated to advance the art, should not be withheld from the publication in which they would appear to the best advantage, and subserve most effectually the interests of operative dentists in all countries.

Broma for Invalids.—We have spoken of this article on a former occasion, but the reception it meets with among invalids encourages us to call the attention of practitioners again to the subject. The English preparation is sold at a much higher cost, although it actually falls below the American manufactured broma, in point of delicacy, flavor and nutritious properties. Of its worth as an article of food for all persons in health, it is quite unnecessary to endeavor to strengthen the public sentiment, as its very extensive adoption in families, instead of tea and coffee, is sufficient evidence of the manner it is appreciated. For elderly people, children, and those of rather feeble powers of digestion, Mr. Baker's Broma is admirable. But we wish now to contemplate it, simply as an appropriate diet for the sick. So many excellent properties are combined in it, that it has attracted the notice of many of the prominent physicians of this city. Medical men are continually puzzled in regard to the kind of food which patients, under certain conditions, may take with safety. On this account, particularly, we think it is worth their while to examine fully in-

to the merits of broma, which has successfully passed an ordeal and gained the full approbation of medical gentlemen of distinction, who would never interest themselves in a measure that did not promise well for the benefit of the afflicted.

City Acclimation of Horses.—It is spoken of as a circumstance of common notoriety, that a majority of the horses brought to the city from the country, actually pass through quite a severe acclimating process, before they are in a fit condition for regular every-day service. In the large horse marts where the stalls are narrow, and a large number of horses are kept, a singular affection of the eyes begins to show itself in about a fortnight, known to the dealers under the name of *pink-eye*. The conjunctival membrane appears to be in a low state of diffused inflammation, accompanied by copious discharges from the nostrils. When they have fairly convalesced—a point readily determined by persons familiar with the buying and selling of horses—the animal has a return of spirited activity, and appears as it did before coming to market.

On first coming to the city, horses abominate the water usually drawn in stables and stable yards, which is more filthy, if possible, than that which is used by the inhabitants in crowded sections of the town. Both appetite and digestion are seriously influenced by the vileness of the water, or, rather, it is so offensive to their nice organs, that they suffer prodigiously, at times, from thirst, rather than take it. Consequently the food is not sufficiently diluted to be easily digested. By degrees, however, physical necessity, and habitual tasting, like the course of the drunkard, cause them to overcome their instinctive dislike, and they take potations of the water, ultimately, as freely as they would of the freshest, softest running stream. Some have conjectured that the affection of the eyes is induced by the reflected light from the buildings, signs, white-washed stalls, pavements, &c., which is by no means improbable.

Density of the Population in Boston.—In Mr. Shattuck's census, a volume just published by the Boston City Government, it is stated that in a section of Ward 8, bounded by Hamilton st., Humphrey place, Oliver, Battery-March and Broad sts. and Washington square, there are 3131 inhabitants—being one to every *seven square yards*! In that same locality each of the dwelling houses, many of which have in them shops, in which vegetables, fruits and refreshments are sold, contain, on an average, *thirty-seven persons*! No wonder that such mortality exists among the children of the Irish families residing there.

Vermont Medical Society.—A semi-annual meeting was held at Woodstock, says the *Jeffersonian*, on Wednesday, June 10th, Dr. S. Converse, of Norwich, Vice President, in the chair; S. W. Thayer, of W. Randolph, Secretary *pro tem*.

Dr. Palmer presented an excuse from Dr. Rockwell for not being present to meet his appointment. Dr. Smith, of Berlin, gave a very sound and valuable discourse upon the importance of a thorough medical education. Dr. Smith presented to the Chair a request that the professors of

the Vermont Medical College favor the Society with remarks upon the pathology of peritonitis. Hon. H. H. Childs, of Pittsfield, Mass., spoke on the subject at some length. Dr. Burnham, of Barre, introduced a patient suffering from a large tumor situated upon the arm, upon which Professors Moore and Clarke made remarks highly instructive and interesting to the Society. By request, Prof. Clarke made some remarks upon the pathology and treatment of acute peritonitis—and complimenting the Physicians of New England for their thorough, efficient and peculiar method of treating that disease. Prof. Palmer, of Woodstock, gave a very interesting account of his views of peritonitis and its appropriate treatment. Remarks also followed by Drs. Story, Stiles, Converse and Palmer.

On motion, by Dr. Stiles, it was voted to constitute Dr. Worcester, Dr. H. H. Palmer, of Bethel; Dr. W. C. Pierce, of Bridgewater; and Dr. Hazen, of Woodstock, members of the Society.

Lithotomy.—The operation of Lithotomy was performed by Dr. Trowbridge, on the 5th ult., on D. B. Meacham, of Oswego, Co., N. Y., with success. Two minutes only were occupied in the operation, and a stone removed from the bladder measuring three inches and three quarters in circumference.

Mr. M. had been suffering for five years. Various opinions had been given him by medical men as to the cause of his illness. And, as is too often the case, various systems of treatment had been adopted without a knowledge of the cause.

He had been treated for liver complaint. He had been treated by the botanic doctor with lobelia emetics and hot drops—by the cold water advocates—drank cold water, and was wrapped in cold cloths for three months. He was treated for *spinal disease*; and four years passed with an aggravation of all his symptoms.

Losing confidence in remedial means proposed, he followed his own selection of remedies, principally from *newspaper recommendations*, but was still suffering with an aggravation of all his symptoms for one year longer, and finally submitted his case to the surgeon, who discovered a stone to be the cause of his long and painful sufferings. Two minutes' suffering has probably saved him from a premature grave.

Castleton (Vt.) Medical College.—The commencement at the close of the spring session of Castleton Medical College, was holden on the 17th of June, at which time the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on fifty-five young gentlemen. This is one of the oldest institutions in New England, and was never in a more prosperous condition.

The Shape of the External Ear in Relation to Mental Disease.—Dr. Conolly, in one of his admirable letters on French lunatic asylums, makes the following remarks:

"M. Foville has made curious, and, I believe, original observations on the shape of the ear in different forms of insanity, and has noticed an analogy or resemblance between the development of different portions of

this organ and the brain of the patient. Of these views he was so obliging as to give me some explanation, illustrated by an extemporaneous diagram, and afterwards by corroborative examples. In some of the cases of dementia, or of the lowest degree of intelligence, the flatness and defective form of the helix, anti-helix and tragus, and the disproportionate enlargement and pendulosity of the lobe of the ear, and rounded clumsy shape of the outer edge of the auricle, were very striking. Subsequent observations have led me to believe these views to be exact as well as curious; and they exemplify the abundance of external evidence available to the physician in relation to internal disorder."

In support of the view here proposed, he relates the following anecdote: "Not very long ago, M. Foville was called upon by an intelligent and philanthropic person who appeared to take much interest in the management of lunatic asylums; and he was greatly struck with a conformation of ears in this gentleman which he had never previously observed, except in cases of mental irregularity or disorder. I happen myself to know that the individual who was the subject of this observation has had several attacks of insanity, and although now at large, and exhibiting considerable mental activity, has repeatedly been in confinement; circumstances of which M. Foville had no knowledge when he remarked what seemed to him to be an anomalous peculiarity."—*British and Foreign Review*.

The Sale of Gorged Leeches.—A pamphlet lately published by M. Chevalier, Professor of the School of Pharmacy, in Paris, contains an account of a fraud which has recently been practised by leech-merchants. The ponds which formerly furnished France with leeches have been for some time exhausted by the cupidity of the collectors, who sold the whole stock, young and old, and thus left no chance of reproduction. France has, for the last eighteen years, been supplied from Egypt, Turkey, Wallachia, Hungary, and Prussia. Between 1827 and 1844, no less than 500,000,000 leeches were imported into France, and the price has increased from fifteen cents. to forty cents. each. Wholesale dealers buy and sell them by the weight, and in order to increase their profit, gorge them with the blood of sheep and other animals, thus making 1000 small leeches, weight two pounds and a half, value seventy-five francs, equivalent, by the addition of two pounds of blood, to four pounds and a half, and obtaining for them 180 or 200 francs. Several members of the Academy of Medicine have investigated the subject, and confirm M. Chevalier's statement, deprecating the fraud, and warning the public against such an imposition, alike injurious to commerce and to health.—*Pharmaceutical Journal*.

Commencement.—At a public commencement of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, held on Wednesday evening the 15th of April, 1846, the degree of "Graduate in Pharmacy" was conferred upon the following gentlemen, pupils in the institution:—

William B. Webb, *Rubus Villosus*; William N. Needles, *Cornus Florida*; Caleb H. Keeney, *Rubus Villosus*; Joseph Allen McMaken, *Marrubium Vulgare*; Thomas Leidy, *Scutellaria lateriflora* and *hyssopifolia*; Robert M. Patterson, *Morphia*; Peter T. Wright, *Leontodon Taraxicum*;

George W. Patrick, *American Bromine*; John Dickson, *Camphora*; Charles F. Stoeber, *Hedera Helix*; Thomas James Scott, *Syrupus Ipecacuanha*; Jacob L. Baker, *Sabbatia Angularis*; Benjamin R. Smith, *Diospyros Virginiana*; Robert England, *Gillenia Trifoliata*; Hiram C. Lee, *Impure Carbonate of Zinc*; John A. Whartenby, *Matico*. The valedictory address was delivered by Prof. Carson.—*Amer. Jour. of Pharm.*

Cancer.—An American traveller, writing from Paris, whose letter is published in the *Western Lancet*, says, "This morning I saw Velpeau excise a cancer which involved at least two-thirds of the lower lip. It was the second appearance of the tumor, he having taken it away from the same place a year before, so that he stated his fears of its return the third time, but thought it better to give the patient the chance which the operation would afford. I have frequently seen tumors of this description cut away for the second and third time, and am inclined, from what I have seen here, to think with you that they had better not be touched. It seems to me, that where these operations are so frequently unsuccessful, there is good reason to suppose an error in diagnosis in those few which terminate happily."

Medical Miscellany.—Yellow fever, the terrific desolator of southern America, has again appeared at Vera Cruz, with much virulence.—Dr. Ezra Green, of Dover, N. H., was 100 years old on the 28th ult.—Dr. Conneau, who assisted Louis Napoleon to escape lately from the Fortress of Ham, in France, is under arrest and treated with peculiar rigor.—According to the latest advices by the steamer, the cholera is advancing with rapid strides towards St. Petersburg, from whence it is feared it will creep over western Europe. Last week word came that the same disease had shown itself at Quebec.—Measles are common and fatal in some parts of Maine. The disease has been active in this city for some time, and is often mistaken for smallpox.—In Gen. Taylor's two battles, 103 were so badly wounded as to be placed in the Point Isabel Hospital. At St. Joseph's Island there were twelve amputations of the thigh, leg and arm, all doing well.—A new work on botany, by Dr. Gray, of Cambridge, entitled the "*Genera of the U. S. Flora, Illustrated*," is in press.—Smallpox has been prevailing at Georgetown, Ky.—The Orange Co. Vermont Medical Society had a meeting at Chelsea, on the 18th ult.—Mrs. Glines died, week before last, at Derby, Vt., at the age of 100 years.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Some account of the Southern District Medical Society of Massachusetts—Case of Cerebral Extravasation—Dr. Ramsey's remarks on the Transylvania Medical School—Dr. Ingalls's reply to L. W.—and the paper of Medicus from New York, have been received.

MARRIED.—At Woodstock, Vt., Munroe Atkinson, M.D., of Meadville, Penn., to Miss J. S. Pinka.

DIED.—At Ludlow, Vt., Dr. A. G. Taylor.

Report of Deaths in Boston—for the week ending June 27th, 53.—Males, 31, females, 22. Stillborn, 6. Of consumption, 7—cholera infantum, 4—suicide, 1—measles, 6—spasms, 1—disease of the heart, 1—dropsy on the brain, 4—typhus fever, 3—croup, 4—infantile, 3—inflammation of the lungs, 4—pleurisy fever, 1—erysipelas, 1—drowned, 3—lung fever, 1—jaundice, 1—dropsy, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 1—childbed, 1—old age, 1—disease of the bowels, 1—intemperance, 1—rheumatism, 1—scarlet fever, 1—sudden, 1.

Under 5 years, 23—between 5 and 20 years, 5—between 20 and 40 years, 16—between 40 and 60 years, 7—over 60 years, 4.

On the Use of Ergot of Rye in Uterine Hemorrhages.—At a late meeting of the Dublin Obstetrical Society, Dr. Beatty read a communication on this subject.

"Having stated the beneficial effects of ergot given after hemorrhage had set in, he alluded to the injury likely to be produced by the indiscriminate and premature administration of opium in these cases, and pointed out the different times at which ergot of rye and opium are to be given with advantage, the former in the early stage, when we want to induce uterine contraction; the latter in the last stage, when we wish to restore the exhausted vital powers and nervous energy. He recommended the employment of ergot in cases where there is reason (from experience in former deliveries) to expect hemorrhage, so as to prevent the occurrence of this formidable accident. He prepares an infusion of one drachm of ergot in four ounces of boiling water; when the child's head has cleared the external orifice, he gives one half of the dose, including the powder, and when the child is entirely expelled, the remainder is given. Dr. Beatty gave the details of several cases in which this practice was followed by complete success. The placenta was thrown off in all without any difficulty, and in none did hemorrhage appear, although in former labors the greatest danger to life had been experienced.

"He alluded to the power possessed by the ergot of restraining after-pains, and mentioned some cases in which he had given the medicine with this view, and with the best effect.

"He concluded by bearing strong testimony to the value of this medicine in cases of very obstinate menorrhagia when given in doses of five grains three times a day; and he mentioned having witnessed on some occasions, when the medicine had been thus given, the production of severe cramp-like pain in the hips and upper part of the thighs."—*Dublin Hos. Gaz.*

Barbarism in New York.—We learn by a late No. of the Buffalo Medical Journal, that William B. Waterman, M.D., of Buffalo, was arrested on the charge of disinterring bodies for anatomical purposes. Not being able to find bail, he was committed to jail, where he remained for a period of two months. Upon the final trial he was found guilty, and sentenced to the Auburn State Prison for the term of three years! No unusual provocation was alleged in this case; no complaints were made by friends or relatives, but the "informer was a miserable vagabond, who was hired as an accomplice;" and the prosecutors were the people, for whose immediate benefit the so-called crime was committed. It was also proved on trial that Dr. Waterman possessed correct moral habits, industry and promising attainments.—*Western Lancet.*

New Medical Works in London.—The Physiology of the Nerves of the Uterus and its Appendages. By Joseph Swan.—Moral Philosophy, or the Duties of Man considered in his Individual, Domestic and Social Capacities. By George Combe.—Liebig's Physiology, applied in the Treatment of Functional Derangement and Organic Disease. By J. Leeson, M.R.C.S.E., &c.—Mercury in Fevers, Dysentery, and Hepatitis, as they occur in India, and with reference to lesions in mucous surfaces glandular structures. By John Stuart Sutherland, M.D., Assistant Surgeon, Bengal Medical Establishment.